

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising the following steps:
 - a. connecting an originating computer via an online communication system to a central computer,
 - b. providing information from the originating computer to the central computer about the user and the signer and selecting the type of collectible surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed,
 - c. scanning the suspected signature at the originating computer and transmitting the scanned image to the central computer,
 - d. comparing the scanned image of the suspected signature with a selected set of stored signatures at the central computer to determine whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic, and
 - e. communicating to the originating computer whether the signature is authentic or not authentic.

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2. A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object according to Claim 1 further comprising the following steps for those signatures that are determined to be authentic:
 - f. printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and printing a second identical hologram for those signatures that are authentic, and
 - g. attaching the second hologram to the collectible.
3. A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising the following steps:
 - a. scanning a suspected signature that is inscribed on a collectible with a scanner and transferring the scanned image into an originating computer,
 - b. connecting the originating computer via an online communication system to a central computer,
 - c. providing information from the originating computer to the central computer about the user and the signer and selecting the type of collectible surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed,

- 12 d. transmitting the scanned image from the originating
- 13 computer to the central computer,
- 14 e. comparing the scanned image of the suspected signature
- 15 with a selected set of stored reference signatures at the
- 16 central computer to determine whether the suspected
- 17 signature is authentic or not authentic, and
- 18 f. communicating to the originating computer whether the
- 19 suspected signature is authentic or not authentic.

1 4. A method of verifying the authenticity of a suspected signature on a

2 collectible object according to Claim 3 further comprising the

3 following steps for those suspected signatures that are determined

4 to be authentic:

- 5 g. printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized
- 6 hologram and printing a second identical hologram for those
- 7 suspected signatures that are authentic, and
- 8 h. attaching the second hologram to the collectible.